

"To thine own self be true, and it must follow,

as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

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## POETRY.

### Echoes of Melancholy.

The leaves and joys of earth are brief;  
The fairest flowers the first decay;  
In Pleasure's footsteps follows Grief;  
Too soon we mourn the fallen day.  
And life's departed May.  
We yearn, perplexed and aching with pain,  
Our long-lost Eden to regain;  
O, is it far away?  
Hark! from the caverns of the hermit,  
Faint echoes, plaintive voices start:  
"O, is it far away?"  
"O, is it far away?"  
And, coming from beyond the sky,  
Melancholy, solemn strains reply:  
"O, is it far away?"  
The soul is pained with vain regret;  
We pine for what we never get;  
And sorrow we would fain forget,  
With clasped hands and eyelids wet,  
Haunt us forever more.  
Grows there no balm in grove or field,  
No plant that may soothe the yield?  
Ah, is there no relief?  
Lest from the grove low murmurs flow  
As though old spirits revelled there too;  
"O, no, no, no!"  
And from the field, with moonlight light,  
The withering flowers and grass reply:  
"O, no, no, no!"  
A withering music in the south;  
And flickering hopes, as fire at night,  
Illumine the air, tracing youth,  
And with their gleams like the truth  
Faintly, before us lie.  
O World! O Time! O Love! O Pain!  
Somewhere to make it all again?  
Must I, like you, depart?  
The World depends on youthful laugh,  
And life on many a sigh;  
"O, no, no, no!"  
And, as the sweet, serene loss, by,  
The kind, the tender of Time reply:  
"O, no, no, no!"

## POLITICAL.

[From the Round Table.]

### Reconstruction.

One of the grand errors which the people of the North have committed since the close of the war lies at the basis of the whole reconstruction policy, and is independent of any question of the constitutional power to deal with the Southern States as they have been dealt with. It has consisted in the assumption of a necessity for protecting the negroes against the whites. The general belief in such a necessity has led the people of the North to acquiesce in measures which they certainly would otherwise have condemned, and of which they are now beginning to see the mischievous fruits. The error has extended to the means as well as to the end. We have assumed that the negro needed protection at our hands, and then have committed the blunder of supposing that the ballot was to be the great panacea. It has proved to be a Pandora's box.

If a supreme ruler, having unrestrained authority and an ordinary share of wisdom and benevolence, had been called to consider the problem presented by the sudden abolition of slavery as one of the consequences of a civil war growing out of a political revolt against his government, it is probable that one of the last projects that he would have adopted would have been to reverse the political and social relations of the two races by conferring political power upon the inferior race and taking it away from the superior. But wise or unwise, constitutional or unconstitutional, the action of Congress towards the Southern States has been founded on a monstrous assumption. The whole social history of the South for a period of fifty years preceding the rebellion shows that the relations between the two races had in general been kindly and harmonious. There were evils enough attendant upon slavery, and it was certainly a blot upon the escutcheon of such a republic as ours. We have all reason to be thankful for its removal, and this we believe is the opinion of ninety-nine in every hundred of the former masters. But whether it arose from the nature of the negro, from the fact that for so many generations he had been a slave, or from the virtues which such a system engendered in the whites along with vices which it produced, it is undeniable that protection and good treatment of the blacks were the settled habits and the firm dispositions of Southern society. If it had been otherwise, we never should have witnessed the extraordinary spectacle, which was displayed all through the war, of a servile population remaining peacefully at work in the absence of their masters, who were carrying on a war one of the avowed objects of which was to continue them in their servile condition. There was no such thing as a serious slave insurrection in the whole South while the war was going on. In cases almost innumerable the slaves on isolated plantations, where white women and children were left without any protectors of their own race excepting a single overseer, were faithful to the last carrying on the labor of production which furnished the sinews of war as well as the means

of subsistence for all. The national government obtained no important military advantage in the whole course of the war which can be said to have accrued from any willingness of the blacks to rise *en masse* against the supposed oppressors. This spectacle has at no time impressed the people of the North as it did the people of foreign countries, and we have not drawn from it the important lesson it should have conveyed to us.

It should have taught us that when the people of the Southern States, after the war was ended, consented to ratify an amendment of the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery, and when they were ready, as they certainly were, to adjust their legislation and customs to a system of free labor, our further interference would be both unnecessary and mischievous. It was clearly unnecessary, because there was no oppression, and no feeling that rankled in the bosoms of the whites against the blacks. It was certainly to prove mischievous, because as legislators for the South we were utterly incompetent to deal with a problem so far removed from us, so local, so peculiar, and involving so many details of which we could know nothing. We were completely ignorant of the race for whose benefit we undertook to act. We were ignorant of the processes and necessities of the great agriculture which depended upon their labor. What kind of contracts the owner of the soil could make with the freedmen, what contracts could be enforced, how subsistence was to be provided, how the laboring population were to be kept at work and kept in health—that population being one just emancipated from the absolute will of an owner and no more capable in general of self-direction than so many children—these were matters with which it was impossible for any government to deal wisely which entirely lacked representative men belonging to those communities, and assumed the relation of a sovereign that had quelled a political revolt. We did the very worst thing that we could have done. We sent a military power to deal with social problems that required local knowledge and the experience which generations of the civilized and intelligent white men had acquired in dealing with the negro; and the agents of that military power were Northern strangers, very poorly qualified to legislate for a people whose interests and whose wants they could not understand, and against whom they carried with them strong political prejudices. The Freedmen's Bureau was founded upon the idea that the blacks needed protection against the whites; and along with this came another stupendous mistake, that it was necessary to repress the whites because they had been "rebels," and to proclaim the blacks to be the "loyalists" and "Unionists" because their former masters had engaged in a political revolt against the Federal Government. This running of political distinctions into problems that were purely social, legislative and local—the problems of free labor where slave labor alone had produced the great staples of a very peculiar region—soon excited the ambition and chicanery of a certain class of politicians who have had the predominant control of the Federal Government since a comparatively early period in President Lincoln's administration.

These men conceived the idea that if the ballot could be put into the hands of the negro they could control the political character of the Southern States, and by means of a population which they could handle as they pleased the Southern States might be made, politically, Republican; as they would certainly become Democratic if the whites were left in possession of the political power. But how the ballot was to be got into the hands of the blacks was a question not easy to be settled. The institutions and the fundamental law of the United States did not admit of any interference by Congress with the right of suffrage. The making or unmaking of voters by an act of Congress was a thing unheard of; and even the most radical of our Radicals did not at first see their way to this assumption of power. They proposed an amendment of the constitution which would deprive the Southern States of their proportion of representative population unless they conferred suffrage upon the negroes. This amendment was rejected by the people on whom it undertook to force a change which they knew the freedmen were not fit for, and for which there was no kind of honest necessity. What was to be done? Negro suffrage must be had, or the political power of the Radical party in the North was in danger of being lost by the reaction naturally to be expected after a civil war. Reconstruction was the only remaining resource—a scheme which meant that the Southern States, as they then existed and always had existed, should be suppressed; that the whites who would not consent to negro suffrage should be disfranchised by the direct force of an act of Congress; that suffrage should be conferred on the blacks by the same power. And this, when the country is at

peace and the people had a right to hope for a reduction of taxes and the national obligation as the fruit of victory won, God knows with what terrible sacrifice to every home and hearth in the country. But instead of the load being lightened we are called on to bear further exactions, to submit to increased expenditures. In order to keep a portion of the country in subjection more troops are called for. Men foisted into Congress from the Southern States, and governors who really represent little more than a mock constituency, demand from the government an expensive army to assist them in carrying out schemes and ambitions which are purely partisan and are positively destructive of the peace and good of the country. It is facile like these which most intelligent men of all parties when they come to cast their votes, and we cannot be surprised that minorities are found to protest emphatically against a continuance of this kind of government.

The people demand a change, and it is the people, and not any paramour party, who will make the issue at the approaching election. Names and individual candidates count for very little in this contest. It is a cheap government, honestly administered in view of the fact that the country is at peace, which the people require. A serious counter-revolution, therefore, terrible to the politicians, no doubt, but good and wholesome for the people—because it is being born of the people—is at hand. Nothing but the marvellous activity of our population and the untold resources of the country could enable us to bear the present burden of taxation or indige as to submit to carry it so long. But it is evident that a reaction has set in, and it may be that in the course of events, as now foreboded, the next elections will result in sending a majority to Congress possibly in favor of repudiation, but certainly in favor of a reduction of the present enormous taxation. The public mind leans that way. Let us have peace, real peace, is the popular cry, and the popular heart naturally yearns for the possession of that prosperity which should accompany peace. The result of the Presidential election may be so vaguely decided in the conflict between the rights of the Northern and Southern States in the matter of franchise as deranged by Radical legislation as to drift us into another civil war; but it is clearly the duty of the Northern States to set the seal emphatically upon the issue by their votes, and leave nothing to chance or no opening for conflict. The expression of anti-Radical sentiment in the late elections in Kentucky and Oregon is but the precursor of a great counter-revolution, upon the verge of which the country stands this moment.

### Our Heavy Taxes—Will the People Bear Them?

The people of the United States are more heavily taxed than any other people in the world. Even in England where there is a stupendous national debt and one larger than ours, and where there is a costly system of royal government to support, the taxes are not so great or burdensome. We speak only of national taxation. But if we take into account our local taxes, in addition to those imposed by the federal government, to our State, county and municipal taxes, the burden is enormous beyond anything known or borne heretofore. The patient submission of the American people is surprising. No other people having the same liberty and free election of those who make the laws and govern the country would submit to such overwhelming and unnecessary taxation. But will the American people continue to bear it? We think not, for to do so would be contrary to all experience and to human nature. One of two things must happen; either the taxes must be greatly reduced or repudiation in some form or other will be resorted to for relief.

According to the letter of Mr. Wells, Special Commissioner of Revenue, published in the *Herald* July 29, the total receipts of the government for the year ending June 30, 1868, were, in currency and specie, over four hundred and six millions. Of this sum, however, one hundred and sixty-three million five hundred thousand was in gold from customs. Reckoning the whole in currency, with gold at forty per cent. premium, though it is now fifty, that would make the total income of the government over four hundred and seventy millions. Thus the people are taxed by the federal government alone, without reckoning the heavy State, county and municipal burdens, about fourteen dollars a head, man, woman and child. A working-man with a family of five or six children is taxed in one way or another about a hundred dollars a year. Making a general average of the incomes of this class, it would amount probably to a seventh or an eighth of each man's earnings. Then, in addition to this, there are all the burdens of local taxation. Over four hundred and seventy millions a

year taxation in time of peace, and three years after the war closed, is a burden as unnecessary as it is appalling.

And who is to blame? First, our extravagant and reckless Congress, which has done little else than legislate to swell the expenditures; and, next, the wretched mismanagement of the finances by the Secretary of the Treasury. With the enormous means in the hands of Mr. McCulloch during three years of peace he might have reduced the debt several hundred millions below its present figure. Instead of that the debt has actually been made heavier by the manipulation of it in the interest of speculators and bondholders. The non-interest bearing debt, which has not a burden, has been paid as far as the Secretary was permitted to go in such a stupid policy, and the debt bearing gold and the highest interest has been enormously increased. The consequence is that the total interest to be raised annually is greater than it was when the debt was larger. Mr. McCulloch seems to have had but one idea, and that is to draw as much from the people as possible, and to increase the incomes of the bondholders as much as possible. He is not the servant of the people or government; he is merely the agent of the bondholders and speculators. Will the people endure this state of things? It is unreasonable to think they will. Their eyes are being opened, and they will soon demand both a reduction of the burden of the debt and an economical administration of the government. If this should not be done we warn the government and the bondholders to prepare for repudiation and a general disturbance such as this country has never known before.

[N. Y. Herald, Aug. 7th.]

### A Colored Man's Appeal—What has Congress Done for Us?

This is the question now in the mouths of the colored people of Lynchburg. What has Congress done for us? They have forcibly, fraudulently, deceitfully and dishonestly alienated us from our old masters, who were our friends, who knew us entirely, who sympathized with us, and have handed us together in oath-bound leagues for the purpose of controlling our votes, and making us their slaves. We are starving for bread, as the wages of our allegiance to carpet-bag adventurers, the tools of Congress, who will ruin us, if need be, so that they get office. Congress has done nothing for us. The leaders of the Freedmen's Bureau, and the carpet-bag politicians have been fooling us for three years, telling us to hold on to the league party, with the hope that Congress would soon do something great for us—that we should soon have houses and lands. These false promises have been used by corrupt men, for corrupt purposes, that we might be fooled, and they get office. We have been duped long enough. These empty oiled adventurers use us as tools that they may get office, and we are left to perish while they prosper. What do they tell us now?—"If you vote for the Democrats you vote yourselves back into slavery." "If you vote against the constitution made at Richmond you vote yourselves back into slavery."

These statements are all false, and these men know it. Slavery is abolished forever; nobody wishes to restore it; the Constitution of the United States forbids it, and the Democratic party would not restore it if they could. Slavery is gone, and the only fear of servitude to the colored man is from the Loyal League, ruled by unknown adventurers who come like vultures from the North seeking carrion. They are our enemies at heart, they will make us slaves. They fool us; we trust them, and vote for them. They laugh at our folly and we perish.

O, my colored brethren, quit the League before it is too late! Congress has done nothing for us and intends to do nothing for us. The Freedmen's Bureau has done nothing for us and intends to do nothing. We perish while our natural friends, the white men among whom we were raised, are yet willing to rent us lands to work, and to protect us in the enjoyment of our privileges. Just look at the men who come into the League with white skins. Who are they, and what do they come for, and what will they do for us? They are drones who have done nothing for themselves; spongers who would eat without work; men who have failed in every honorable employment. They come for office; they come that we may serve them and not that they may serve us. They all want office, and they are all unworthy of office, incompetent men who were never heard of except as objects of contempt till the leagues were formed. They will do nothing for us. Men who will not work for their own wives and children will not work for us.

If we will do our duty, work and be industrious, we can make a good living, but we must not array ourselves against the owners of all the property of the country. We must be friends to them, and we will have broad

and they will be friends to us.

Come out from the Leagues and live, or hold on to the Leagues and perish. That is the issue. Congress has done nothing for us.

We must work for ourselves, and we must acknowledge our folly, make friends of the whites, and live honest, industrious, temperate lives.

### A FREEDMAN.

In reference to the above, the Lynchburg *Virginian* says:

We publish an article to-day that is what it really purports to be. It is an appeal to colored men from one of their own number, by whom it was handed to us. It is no fraud or attempt at deception on our part, as can be readily demonstrated if our word is not sufficient to carry conviction to every mind. Let the colored men ponder this appeal from one of the shrewdest and best of their population.

### A Bill to Regulate the Admission of Negroes and Ignorant Whites to Practice as Attorneys and Solicitors.

The following bill has passed the House and been read a first time in the Senate:

A BILL to regulate the admission of persons to practice as attorneys, solicitors and counsellors in the courts of this State.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same:

Section 1. Any male citizens of the age of twenty-one years having read law in the office of any practicing attorney of good standing, in this State, for the period of two years, or graduated at any recognized law school in the United States, shall, on the examination of three members of the bar, appointed by the Circuit Court for that purpose, who shall certify that he is a person of good moral character, and possesses the requisite learning and ability, be admitted to practice in the Circuit and Probate Courts as an attorney, solicitor and counsellor, upon taking the oath prescribed in the constitution. *Provided*, That in extraordinary cases the judge presiding may, in his discretion, dispense with any portion of the two years of study herein required. And the Judge of the Supreme Court may, in like manner, and under like regulations, admit persons to practice as attorneys, solicitors and counsellors in the Supreme Court, and admission to the Supreme Court shall entitle them to practice in all of the courts of this State.

Sec. 2. Every person who has been an attorney, solicitor or counsellor in the courts of the State, under the laws heretofore existing, shall, on taking the oath prescribed in the constitution, be admitted to practice in the courts of the State.

Sec. 3. Any person of good moral character, who has been admitted to practice as an attorney, solicitor or counsellor in any Court of Record in any of the United States, or in any court of the United States shall, on producing the proper evidence thereof, on motion, be admitted to practice as such in the courts of similar grade in this State on taking the prescribed oath.

Sec. 4. Any attorney, solicitor or counsellor having been admitted to practice in the Circuit and Probate Courts, and practiced acceptably therein one year, shall, on motion and recommendation of any attorney of record in the Supreme Court, be admitted to practice in said court.

Sec. 5. The oath required to be taken by this act shall be administered in open court, and the name of the person taking the same entered in a roll book kept for that purpose, and a certificate of said oath shall be filed in open court.

Sec. 6. Attorneys, solicitors and counsellors may be removed or suspended by the several courts in which they shall have been appointed, but subject to such removal or suspension, they shall hold their offices during life.

Sec. 7. Any attorney, solicitor or counsellor may be removed or suspended who shall be guilty of any deceit, malpractice or misdemeanor, but not until a copy of the charges against him shall have been delivered to him by the clerk of the Court in which the proceedings shall be had, and an opportunity shall have been given him of being heard in his defense.

Sec. 8. If any attorney, solicitor or counsellor shall enter into any speculative practice by purchasing, or procuring to be purchased, any note or other demand, for the purpose of putting the same in suit, when otherwise the owner or holder thereof would not sue the same, such attorney, solicitor or counsellor shall pay a fine of one hundred dollars, and shall thereafter be incapable of practicing as such in any court until restored by the Supreme Court.

Sec. 9. This act shall not be construed so as to prevent a citizen from prosecuting or de-

fending his own cause if he so desires. All acts heretofore passed regulating the admission of attorneys, solicitors or counsellors to practice in the courts of the State, and all acts inconsistent with, or supplied by, this act, are hereby repealed.

### Transparencies.

The following were the thirty-seven transparencies, provided for by the Seymour and Blair Club of Raleigh, viz:

Rhode Island—"A Moto in thy brother's eye."

New Jersey.—O. K. all the time!

Pennsylvania.—The Radical Curtain drops, and Seymour appears in front!

Vermont.—"Ephraim is joined to his idols; let him alone."

Indiana.—Turning right side up! Slowly, but surely.

California.—Democracy is at its Height! Ed. Stanley leads a Democratic Legion.

Iowa.—Overwhelmed, but not dismayed!

Kentucky.—Eighty thousand Majority! "Many daughters have done well, but thou excellest them all."

Virginia.—Let her vote if you dare, and then—"Sic Semper Tyranni!"

New Hampshire.—Frank. Pierce leads, and she Pierce the Radical centre.

Oregon.—Hand in hand with California, for the Constitution and the laws.

Nevada.—She joins the Democratic column.

Georgia.—Ben Hill and Georgia go for Seymour and Blair.

Alabama.—Will send Grant where she sent the Radical Constitution—Up a spout!

Maine.—The land of White Pines, Pines not at White Supremacy.

Louisiana.—Beast Butler stole her spoons, but she can vote for Seymour and Blair!

Ohio.—The house of Pendleton tenders 25,000 majority for Seymour!

Mississippi.—Is already Democratic on both sides, White and Black.

Massachusetts.—She is breaking her shackles. Webster still lives.

Maryland.—The despot's heel ain't on thy shoe—Narry time!

North Carolina.—First to nominate Horatio Seymour.

New York.—The house of the Mores—Fillmore, Seymour, and fifty thousand more!

Delaware.—A little body, but a big soul!

Kansas.—Bleeding Kansas will let the blood out of Radicalism.

South Carolina.—Hurrah! for little Harry Percy! From scoundrels she asks no mercy!

Texas.—The "Lone Star" will glitter to the names of Seymour and Blair.

Arkansas.—Is certain for the Democratic Nominees.

Minnesota.—Set her down for Seymour and Blair.

She gives Frank Blair and her Electoral vote to the Democracy.

Connecticut.—"We have seen the Star in the East."

Nebraska.—She has already taken position in the Democratic Column.

West Virginia.—"A chip of the old Block!"

Florida.—"Truth crushed to Earth will rise again."

Wisconsin.—The home of the Patriot, Doolittle, will do much!

Tennessee.—Cursed be Bill Brownlow, but honored by Andrew Johnson.

Michigan.—Geez heretofore, but Michiganders now!

Illinois.—She hears the Slogan of another Douglass and wheels into line.

A BEAUTIFUL DEFINITION.—Masonry is the holy spring where faded beauty reformed her image, darkened wisdom her light, and weakened power her strength. Masonry is the refuge of threatened fidelity, the mediator of offended innocence, and the roomy use of unwarded love. The mingled rights of life she has to regulate, the prejudiced judgment of passion to punish, the actions of the heart to scrutinize. What the clumsy hand of ignorance has thrown together, she shall separate and revive with her genius; what the fire of passion has embraced too hotly, she shall cool with her mildness; and what has been judged too severely by the ignorant multitude, she shall cover with her shield. She throws down the barriers which the prejudice of mankind has erected between man and man, and tears away the golden garment that covers the soulless body. She arranges heart against heart, spirit against spirit, strength against strength, and gives to the weakest the prize; she teaches us to value the tree for its fruit, not for the soil on which it grows, nor for the hand which planted it; she protects fortune against the arrows of malice, change raises the rudder in the stormy life, and springs the leaky ship into a safe harbor.

SILENCE is the sanctuary of truth.